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MEDIA RELEASE

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**NEWMARKET MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR
INTERNET SALES OF STOLEN COMPUTERS**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced today that Brian Samson, age 22 of Newmarket, NH, was sentenced to serve 6 months in federal prison followed by 3 years of supervised release for his role in a burglary/Internet fraud scheme. Samson had previously pleaded guilty on January 24, 2003, to charges that he and an associate, Robert Marsella, who has also pleaded guilty and is scheduled to be sentenced next Tuesday, burglarized Samson's former employer, Lightship Telecom of Bedford, NH, on two occasions. During those two burglaries Samson and Marsella stole over \$40,000 worth of computer equipment. The two then advertised and sold most of the stolen merchandise on the E-Bay Internet auction site to unsuspecting purchasers. After making the fraudulent sales through the E-Bay auction site and taking payment through Internet banks, Samson and Marsella mailed and shipped the stolen equipment to innocent purchasers across the country.

After the sentencing hearing this morning, U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono stated: "Although the Internet is a wonderful resource, it is unfortunately being abused more and more frequently by criminals. This office will continue to work closely with federal and local law enforcement agencies, as was the case here, to track down and prosecute those who abuse the Internet for criminal purposes."

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bedford, NH Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Arnold Huftalen.